

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. A process for the manufacture of an acetylenically unsaturated alcohol comprising reacting a carbonyl compound with acetylene in the presence of ammonia and an alkali metal hydroxide, wherein the carbonyl compound is selected from a group consisting of methyl ethyl ketone, methylglyoxal dimethylacetal, 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one, 6-methyl-5-octen-2-one, hexahydropseudoionone, 4-(2,6,6-trimethyl-1-cyclohexen-1-yl)-3-buten-2-one and 6,10,14-trimethyl-2-pentadecanone, the alkali metal hydroxide is used in aqueous solution and the molar ratio of the alkali metal hydroxide to the carbonyl compound is less than 1 : 200.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the alkali metal hydroxide to the carbonyl compound is from about 1 : 500 to 1 : 200.

3. (Original) A process according to claim 2, wherein the molar ratio of the alkali metal hydroxide to the carbonyl compound is from about 1 : 300 to about 1 : 220.

4. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the carbonyl compound is 6-methyl-5-hepten-2-one and the product is dehydrolinalool.

5. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is potassium hydroxide.

6. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is effected at a temperature from about 0°C to about 40°C and the pressure is at an appropriate value, depending on the reaction temperature, from about 5 bar to

about 20 bar (about 0.5 MPa to about 2 MPa) to maintain the ammonia in the liquefied state.

7. (Original) A process according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is effected at a temperature from about room temperature to about 35°C.

8. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of the acetylene to the carbonyl compound in the reaction mixture for carrying out the process is from about 2 : 1 to about 6 : 1.

9. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of ammonia to carbonyl compound in the reaction mixture for carrying out the process is from about 8 : 1 to about 35 : 1.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 9, wherein the molar ratio of ammonia to carbonyl compound in the reaction mixture for carrying out the process is from about 10 : 1 to about 30 : 1.

11. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction is effected in a continuous manner.

12. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is potassium hydroxide.

13. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the reaction is effected at a temperature from about 0°C to about 40°C and the pressure is at an appropriate value, depending on the reaction temperature, from about 5 bar to about 20 bar (about 0.5 MPa to about 2 MPa) to maintain the ammonia in the liquefied state.

14. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 5, wherein the reaction is effected at a temperature from about 0°C to about 40°C and the pressure is at an appropriate value, depending on the reaction temperature, from about 5 bar to about 20 bar (about 0.5 MPa to about 2 MPa) to maintain the ammonia in the liquefied state.

15. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 12, wherein the reaction is effected at a temperature from about 0°C to about 40°C and the pressure is at an appropriate value, depending on the reaction temperature, from about 5 bar to about 20 bar (about 0.5 MPa to about 2 MPa) to maintain the ammonia in the liquefied state.

16. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the molar ratio of the acetylene to the carbonyl compound in the reaction mixture for carrying out the process is from about 2 : 1 to about 6 : 1.

17. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 5, wherein the molar ratio of the acetylene to the carbonyl compound in the reaction mixture for carrying out the process is from about 2 : 1 to about 6 : 1.

18. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 4, wherein the reaction is effected in a continuous manner.

19. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 5, wherein the reaction is effected in a continuous manner.

20. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 12, wherein the reaction is effected in a continuous manner.

21. (New) A process for the manufacture of an acetylenically unsaturated alcohol comprising reacting a carbonyl compound with acetylene in the presence of ammonia and an alkali metal hydroxide, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is used in aqueous solution and the molar ratio of the alkali metal hydroxide to the carbonyl compound is less than 1 : 200.

22. (New) A process according to claim 21, wherein the molar ratio of the alkali metal hydroxide to the carbonyl compound is from about 1 : 500 to 1 : 200.

23. (New) A process according to claim 22, wherein the molar ratio of the alkali metal hydroxide to the carbonyl compound is from about 1 : 300 to about 1 : 220.

24. (New) A process according to claim 21, wherein the carbonyl compound is a ketone of the general formula



wherein each of R¹ and R², independently, signifies hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, cycloalkyl-alkenyl, cycloalkenyl-alkyl or cycloalkenyl-alkenyl, each of the last four mentioned groups being optionally substituted on its cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl ring, as appropriate, by one to three methyl or ethyl groups, the total number of carbon atoms, including those of the -CH₂-CO-CH₂- moiety, not exceeding 40.

25. (New) A process according to claim 21, wherein the alkali metal hydroxide is potassium hydroxide.

26. (New) A process according to claim 21, wherein the reaction is effected at a temperature from about 0°C to about 40°C and the pressure is at an appropriate value, depending on the reaction temperature, from about 5 bar to about 20 bar (about 0.5 MPa to about 2 MPa) to maintain the ammonia in the liquefied state.

27. (New) A process according to claim 26, wherein the reaction is effected at a temperature from about room temperature to about 35°C.

28. (New) A process according to claim 21, wherein the molar ratio of the acetylene to the carbonyl compound in the reaction mixture for carrying out the process is from about 2 : 1 to about 6 : 1.

29. (New) A process according to claim 21, wherein the molar ratio of ammonia to carbonyl compound in the reaction mixture for carrying out the process is from about 8 : 1 to about 35 : 1.

30. (New) A process according to claim 29, wherein the molar ratio of ammonia to carbonyl compound in the reaction mixture for carrying out the process is from about 10 : 1 to about 30 : 1.

31. (New) A process according to claim 21, wherein the reaction is effected in a continuous manner.